

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, UNGA, PE, CB

SUBJECT: KHMER REPRESENTATION AT UNGA

REF: LIMA 8171

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LE MONDE INTERVIEW WITH PRINCE
SIHANOUK ARTICLE REQUESTED IN REFTEL:

BEGIN QUOTE. SIHANOUK INTERVIEW IN LE MONDE. PARIS LE MONDE
IN FRENCH 27 OCT 73.

(ALAIN BOUC INTERVIEW WITH RGNUC CHIEF OF STATE PRINCE
NORODOM SIHANOUK: I WILL NOT RETURN TO CAMBODIA; I WILL
REMAIN IN PEKING UNTIL I DIE, SUBTITLED RGNUC HEAD
CRITICIZES HANOI AND THE KHMER ROUGE)

(TEXT) -- THE HOUR OF CLARIFICATION HAS COME FOR RGNUC
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF CAMBODIA), THE KHMER
ROUGE, AND PRINCE SIHANOUK. THE PRINCE, WHO HAD A LONG
INTERVIEW WITH US IN HIS RESIDENCE ON ANTI-IMPERIALIST
STREET, GAVE EVIDENCE SIMULTANEOUSLY OF ANXIETY,
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IRRITATION, AND EVEN A HINT OF SADNESS. HIS REMOTENESS FROM
HIS COUNTRY WEIGHTS ON HIM, VICTORY IS SLOW IN COMING, AND
HE IS NO LONGER SURE OF WHAT THE FUTURE AND THE RESISTANCE
HOLD FOR HIM.

LET US ADMIT FRANKLY, OUR WEAKNESS IS PATENT; IT CANNOT BE HIDDEN. DESPITE ALL OUR VICTORY BULLETINS, THE LON NOL REGIME IS STILL THERE. IF IT IS WEAK AND WE CANNOT OVERTHROW IT, WE ARE EVEN WEAKER STILL. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS STILL POWERFUL, WHY KILL IT? THE TRUTH, AS CONFIRMED SEVERAL TIMES BY THE HEAD OF RGNUC, IS THAT THE RESISTANCE CRUELLY LACKS ARMS AND AMMUNITION. OF COURSE WE SERVE IN THE OPPOSITE CAMP, BUT THERE IS SUCH A DIS-PROPORTIONATE BALANCE COMPARED TO WHAT NIXON SENDS TO PHNOM PENH EVERY DAY:

LAST JANUARY'S PARIS AGREEMENTS RESULTED IN THE DISRUPTION OF SUPPLIES FROM NORTH VIETNAM. THE SENDING OF AID FROM THE DRV WAS BLOCKED. NOT COMPLETELY, BUT ALMOST. IN ANY CASE, THE RESISTANCE DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO OCCUPY KOMPONG CHAM AND KEEP IT. THE PRINCE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE HANOI LEADERS' MOVEMENTS.

IN MY OPINION, THE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA BY AWAITING A SETTLEMENT OF THE WHOLE INDOCHINA QUESTION. IT INFORMED NORTH VIETNAM THAT IF HANOI AIDED THE KHMER ROUGE TO THE POINT OF THEIR BEING ABLE TO OVERTHROW LON NOL, IT THE UNITED STATES -- WOULD BE OBLIGED TO INTERVENE AGAIN. THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE: IF WE WIN, ALL THEIR CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS LIABLE TO COLLAPSE.

THE SECOND REASON IS THAT HANOI CANNOT ENDANGER THE PAYMENT OF AMERICA'S WAR DEBTS, WHAT THE UNITED STATES CALLS RECONSTRUCTION AID FOR VIETNAM.

FINALLY, IT SHOULD BE KNOWN THAT HANOI AND THE NLF HAVE DRAWN UP A PLAN FOR THE COUNTRY'S REUNIFICATION, WHICH REQUIRES TIME. THEY CONSIDER THAT A NEW CONFRONTATION WITH THE SAIGON REGIME IS INEVITABLE. THE IMPORTANT THING FOR THEM IS THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT PARTICIPATE
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DIRECTLY IN THE NEW CONFLICT; IN ANY CASE, THAT IT DOES NOT RESUME BOMBING NORTH VIETNAM. TO OBTAIN A COMPLETE AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL, SOME TIME MUST BE ALLOWED TO PASS-- SO THAT THE UNITED STATES GETS USED TO PEACE AND IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE FOR NIXON TO AGAIN LAUNCH HIS COUNTRY INTO WAR. YOU MAY NOTE, CONTINUED THE PRINCE, POINTING TO A MAP, THAT THE TRANSPORT OF ARMS BETWEEN THE TWO VIETNAMS DOES NOT REQUIRE THE TAKING OF PHNOM PENH: THE HO CHI MINH TRAILS PASS THROUGH REGIONS INACCESSIBLE TO LON NOL'S TROOPS.

THE DISRUPTION OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CHANNEL IS THUS

APPARENTLY BEHIND THE RESISTANCE'S MAIN DIFFICULTIES. KIM IL-SONG, THE NORTH KOREAN CHIEF OF STATE, PROPOSED SUPPLYING US WITH AS MUCH AS WE WANTED, BUT TO WHAT GOOD, SINCE THIS MATERIAL COULD NOT BE TRANSPORTED ONCE IT ARRIVED AT THE DRV'S BORDERS? THE SAME PROBLEM EXISTS FOR CHINESE AID, WITH THE ADDITION THAT PEKING DOES NOT WISH, IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH AMERICA, THAT IT BE REPROACHED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE IN INDOCHINA. THEREFORE, CHINA SHOWS NO ENTHUSIASM FOR THE IDEA OF SENDING ARMS.

MOREOVER, CHINA IS OBLIGED SOMEWHAT TO COURT WASHINGTON TO PREVENT THE FORMATION OF A HOSTILE AMERICAN-SOVIET COALITION.

HOWEVER, IN THIS DELICATE SITUATION THERE APPEARS AN ELEMENT OF COMFORT: GRUNK'S RECENT DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES. THE PRINCE IS COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS' CHANGE IN ATTITUDE. THEIR POSIION IS VERY CLEAR. THEY RECALLED THEIR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND ALL THEIR DIPLOMATS, LEAVING IN PHNOM PENH ONLY THREE PERSONS WHO ARE NOT OF DIPLOMATIC QUALITY, TO GUARD THE BUILDINGS. THE GDR LEFT ONLY ONE. THE BULGARIANS REPATRIATED ALL THEIR PERSONNEL. THE MONGOLIANS RECENTLY RECOGNIZED US. OF COURSE, AS A MATTER OF DIGNITY, THEY CAN NOT ALL FOLLOW MOSCOW, ONE AFTER THE OTHER. THEY ALLOW A FEW DAYS TO PASS BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE INITIATIVES. BUT IN THE END, THERE IS NO DOUBT;THE WHOLE BLOC IS COMING OUR WAY. WE NOW HAVE ALL THE SOCIALIST AND NONALIGNED COUNTRIES WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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US: IT IS A VERY GREAT VICTORY FOR RGNUC, WHICH LON NOL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MINIMIZE.

WHY DID THE USSR CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE? (SUBHEAD)

WE MUST STILL ASK OURSELVES, SAID THE PRINCE, PERPLEXED, WHAT WERE THE REASONS WHICH LED MOSCOW TO REVISE ITS ATTITUDE. WAS IT, AS SOME PEOPLE SAY, TO ANNOY THE CHINESE, WHO HAVE NOT YET BROKEN OFF RELATIONS WITH CHILE? OR RATHER, DOES IT KNOW THAT A LARGE ATTACK IS BEING PREPARED, AND DID IT DECIDE TO REPATRIATE ITS MEN? WHEN THE RUSSIANS ARRIVE, IT'S ALWAYS BECAUSE THEY THINK THAT A SOLUTION IS CLOSE; THEY ARE GENERALLY SHREWD. THEY WISH TO PUSH US TOWARD A POLITICAL SOLUTION. THEN THE PRINCE OUTLINED ON THE MAP SEVERAL HYPOTHETICAL DIVISIONS OF TERRITORY WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE SOIVETS TO BE PRESENT AND LIMIT CHINESE INFLUENCE. THEY ARE STILL TALKING, THOUGH ONLY TO REJECT THEM, ABOUT TRIPARTITE OR BIPARTITE GOVERNMENTS WHICH WOULD LEAVE THE HEADS OF THE PHNOM PENH REGIME SOME OF THE POWER.

HOWEVER, THE IDEA CANNOT BE DISMISSED THAT PEKING, MOSCOW AND HANOI MAY AGREE WITH THE KHMER ROUGE, WITHOUT CONFERRING WITH ME, TO PREPARE A MASSIVE ATTACK IN THE DRY SEASON. BUT CERTAINLY WE ASKED YOU WOULD BE INFORMED IN SUCH A CASE?

THAT IS NOT CERTAIN, REPLIED THE PRINCE, I DO NOT HAVE INTIMATE RELATIONS WITH THE KHMER ROUGE; I HAVE NO MORE, I HAVE ALMOST NO RELATIONS WITH THEM. YES, IT IS TRUE, I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT I FOUND THEM STALINIST, WITH THEIR DAILY INDOCTRINATION INSTRUCTION, THE LANGUAGE THEY EMPLOY, THEIR METHODS.

THE PRINCE TALKED ON THESE TICKLISH SUBJECTS WITH THE SAME EASE. BUT HIS EXTREME SENSITIVITY PREVENTED HIM FROM HIDING A DEEP-SEATED SADNESS: YOU KNOW, THERE ARE WOUNDS WHICH CANNOT BE HEALED. I TELL YOU, I WILL NOT RETURN TO CAMBODIA, I WILL REMAIN IN PEKING UNTIL I DIE. MY MOTHER, THE QUEEN, IS GOING TO COME HERE AND WE WILL BOTH REMAIN IN CHINA. BUT MEANWHILE, I WILL AID THE KHMER ROUGE. TO
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